

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (*Currently Amended*) An image reading apparatus[[,]] comprising:

a reference member;

an image reading device capable of reading image data of [[a]] the reference member;

a random noise-suppressing device that suppresses random noise components in the image data of the reference member read by said image reading device; and

a storage device that stores a first image data obtained by reading said reference member with said image reading device at a plurality of positions in a sub-scanning direction while said image reading device moves, and stores a second image data obtained by averaging image data acquired by reading said reference member a plurality of times at a position in the sub-scanning direction by said image reading device; and

a detecting device that detects ~~abnormality on the~~ an abnormal position of said reference member at the position, at which the second image data is obtained, based on the first and second image data having random noise components suppressed by said random noise suppressing stored in said storage device.

2-7. (*Canceled*)

8. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable medium encoding a control program that controls an image reading apparatus and can be executed by a computer, comprising, the control program containing instructions for:

an image reading module capable of reading image data of a reference member with a reading device;

a random noise-suppressing module for suppressing random noise components in the image data of the reference member read by said image reading module; and

storing a first image data obtained by reading the reference member with the image reading device at a plurality of positions in a sub-scanning direction while the image reading device moves, and storing a second image data obtained by averaging image data acquired by reading the reference member a plurality of times at a position in the sub-scanning direction by said image reading device; and

a detecting module for detects abnormality on detecting an abnormal position of the reference member at the position, at which the second image data is obtained, based on the

~~stored first and second image data having random noise components suppressed by said random noise suppressing module.~~

9-14. (*Canceled*)

15. (*New*) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detecting device detects the abnormal position by carrying out a shading correction on the second image data with the first image data.

16. (*New*) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a moving device that moves said image reading device in the sub-scanning direction so that said image reading device reads said reference member.

17. (*New*) The image reading apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said moving device moves said image reading device to read an original.

18. (*New*) The image reading apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said image reading device includes a line sensor that reads said reference member and the original.